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## **An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land off Meadow Lane, North Hykeham**

*pre planning*

NGR SK 947 654

prepared by

***John Samuels Archaeological Consultants***

on behalf of

**Longhurst Housing Association**

Friars House  
Quaker Lane  
Boston  
PE21 6DZ

JSAC 539/99/01

May 1999

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*An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of  
Land off Meadow Lane, North Hykeham*

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*Summary*

*Longhurst Housing Association are proposing the development of a small piece of land off Meadow Road, North Hykeham, centred on NGR SK 947 654. In advance of their application for planning permission, they have commissioned this desk-based assessment to establish the archaeological potential of the site.*

*The site lies on the southern edge of the modern town of North Hykeham, in an area traditionally used for arable farming. No sites or finds have been recorded within the proposed development site. The medieval settlement of North Hykeham appears to have been concentrated to the north around the centre of the modern town. Watching briefs undertaken during developments from 1947 to 1997 have also produced evidence for a Romano-British settlement. The full extent of this settlement has not been determined. At present, elements of it have been identified within 100m of the proposed development site and it is possible that it extended into the site itself.*

*In order to establish the presence or otherwise of remains relating to this Roman settlement, and to establish whether any other remains of archaeological interest exist, it is recommended that the site be subject to a geophysical survey. Due to the small size of the site, it is considered that detailed/recorded survey by fluxgate gradiometer be the be undertaken over the entire site. It may be necessary to follow this with limited trial trenching, small scale area excavation and/or watching brief.*

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The study area is situated on the south-western edge of North Hykeham in North Kesteven district, centred on NGR SK 947 654. The area proposed for development covers approximately 1.15 ha of land currently rough pasture.
- 1.2 Longhurst Housing Association commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to undertake a desk-based assessment to identify any archaeological remains in advance of the development of the site.
- 1.3 This assessment was written by Nansi Rosenberg BA, PIFA in consultation with John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA.

## **2.0 Methodology**

- 2.1 This assessment conforms to: Government Guidance to Local Planning Authorities: *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16), DoE 1990; *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997*, DoE 1997; advice from English Heritage: *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage 1991; and is based on the requirements of the professional standards: *Code of Conduct*, Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994; *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994.
- 2.2 Desk-top research undertaken by *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* was based on an area of 500m around the proposed development site. It comprised analysis of relevant information contained in and provided by Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Documentary and cartographic searches of relevant material in published and unpublished sources were undertaken at the Lincolnshire Record Office and our own library resources. Information about Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Battlefields and Registered Parks & Gardens was obtained from English Heritage.
- 2.3 A site visit and walkover survey was undertaken to examine the topography and current land use of the site, and to identify any previously unrecorded above ground archaeology.
- 2.4 Following the assessment, conclusions were drawn and an indication provided of the archaeological potential of the proposed land for development and the importance of any sites directly affected or where their setting may be a consideration. Where appropriate, recommendations have been made.
- 2.5 At the time of writing there is no nationally agreed method of measuring the relative importance of archaeological monuments. PPG16 (paragraph 8) draws a distinction between nationally important remains and those of lesser distinction. On this basis it is



possible to distinguish between monuments of national, regional local or negligible importance.

- National** Monuments that are scheduled and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), those suitable for scheduling, or considered to be of national importance but not covered by the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling.
- Regional** Sites listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or other sources which are of a reasonably well defined extent, nature and date and significant examples in the regional context.
- Local** Sites listed in the SMR or other sources which are of very low potential or minor importance.
- Negligible** Areas in which investigative techniques have produced negative or minimal evidence of antiquity, or where large scale destruction of deposits has taken place (eg by mineral extraction).

2.6 The potential of a site to contain archaeological remains is based upon a consideration of its topography and the distribution and nature of recorded archaeological finds in the locality. It is measured on the basis of High, Medium, Low and Negligible.

2.7 The setting of a monument is generally considered what can be seen or heard to and from the monument. Its impact can be assessed on the basis of Major, Medium, Minor or Insignificant.

### **3.0 Archaeological and Historical Assessment**

- 3.1 The proposed development site lies on the south-western edge of the village of North Hykeham, North Kesteven. The underlying soils are of the Wickham 2 association, being generally clayey, and derived from the drift geology below. The site is situated 800m from the western bank of the Old River Witham at between 5-10m above Ordnance Datum, sloping gently eastwards towards the Old River Witham. Numerous streams and drains lie in the vicinity of the site and it is likely to have been seriously affected by flooding in the past. The southern boundary of the field concerned was traditionally formed by the South Field Drain, a further field lies to the north and housing lies to the east. The southern boundary of the site is Meadow Road.
- 3.2 The Sites and Monuments Record contains little evidence for pre-Roman activity in the area. The earliest find, a single polished stone axe (SMR ref: E), dating from the Neolithic period comes from slightly higher ground and is, in itself, not indicative of intensive activity.
- 3.3 The earliest certain occupation evidence in this area dates to the Roman period. Numerous finds and features dating to the Roman period have been identified over an area of approximately 3ha, 100m to the north of the proposed development site. Observations and watching briefs carried out during housing developments since 1947 have recovered evidence for settlement in the form of ditches and pits containing domestic occupation and small scale industrial debris. A 1967 interpretation of a kiln in the vicinity has since been refuted, and the settlement was considered, in this later interpretation, to be of a relatively high status. The main phase of occupation was 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, but there was also evidence for a possible Iron Age precursor and certainly occupation from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD onwards. Although the site has only been identified through watching briefs, the evidence suggests a planned settlement, the full extent of which has not yet been identified (Schofield 1997; SMR 60783). The Fosse Way Roman road which served Lincoln lay 1.3km to the north east. A single 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman coin is also recorded in the area



(SMR ref : N), as is the find of a Roman Bronze Head from an amateur archaeological excavation in a garden on the corner of the Meadow Road and Chapel Lane (Schofield 1997)

- 3.4 The medieval period is represented in the environs of the proposed development site by evidence mainly for settlement, religion and farming. North Hykeham is recorded in the Domesday Book as a manor belonging to Count Alan and as land belonging to Doddington and St Peters Abbey in Westminster. The recorded population was made up of two villagers and 13 freemen. Extensive areas of meadow (78 acres) reflect its position on the bank of the River Witham. A mill is also recorded (Morgan & Thorn 1986).
- 3.5 The Domesday survey records the manor with the name Hicham, which is suggested to be derived from Old English *hice* and *ham*, meaning 'the homestead where the blue tit-mouse is found'. This meaning is reported to be very uncertain (Cameron 1998).
- 3.6 A number of historic maps, including the second edition of the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile publication (Figure 4) marks the site of a medieval chapel, approximately 300m to the north of the proposed development site (SMR ref : U). Documentary references to St Katherine's grange at North Hykeham are known (Owen 1971) and it is likely that it lay in the vicinity of Chapel Lane. A number of medieval pottery fragments are recorded from 50m to the west of the supposed chapel site (SMR ref : V).
- 3.7 Although no pre-enclosure maps were identified in the Lincolnshire Record Office, it is likely that an open field system of agriculture was practised in medieval North Hykeham. The enclosure award of 1770 identifies the proposed development site as formerly within South Field. Areas of ridge and furrow have been identified to the east, west and south of the site (SMR ref: 60752, 6971 and see Figure 2). Use of the nearby river is attested by the find of a medieval limestone net sinker 500m to the north of the proposed development site in 1980 (SMR ref: CU).

- 3.7 The enclosure boundaries were reconstructed in map form in 1958 (LRO ref : Kesteven Award 95/8; see Figure 3). Inspection of this and the enclosure award itself indicates that the proposed development site was part of South Field and probably arable, fields to the east of South Field Drain being marked meadow. Ridge and furrow has been identified to the east of this boundary (see Appendix A), suggesting that the extent of arable cultivation in North Hykeham reduced between the medieval and post-medieval periods.



#### **4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 4.1 There is no certain evidence for archaeological remains existing within the proposed development site, and any development would not impact on the setting of any identified monument.
- 4.2 The potential for as yet unidentified remains to exist within the proposed development site is considered to be moderate, due to the evidence for Romano-British activity to the north. The extent of the settlement identified to the north has not been established and it is possible that elements of it may extend into the proposed development site.
- 4.3 It is therefore recommended that the site be subject to a detailed/recorded survey by fluxgate gradiometer. Due to the present ground conditions, it will be necessary to mow the site prior to the survey being carried out. Dependant on the results of this survey, further evaluation, in the form of limited trial trenching, and possibly small scale area excavation and/or watching brief may be required.

## **5.0 Figures and Photographs**

Figure 1 : Site location

Figure 2 : Known archaeology in the vicinity

Figure 3 : Reconstructed map of : The Inclosure Award 1770

Figure 4 : Ordnance Survey 25" : 1 mile 1905

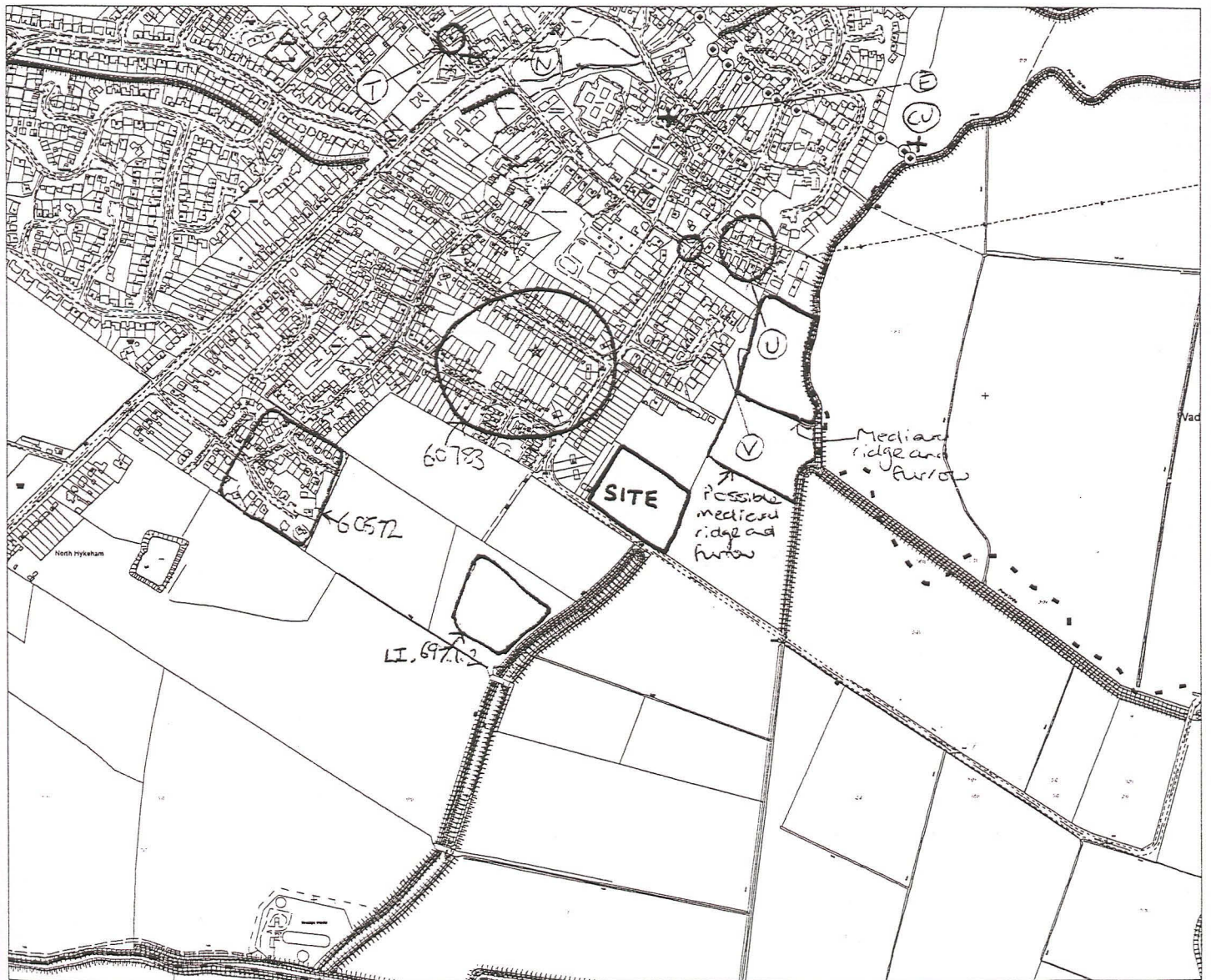
Figure 6 : Ordnance Survey 6" : 1 mile 1907



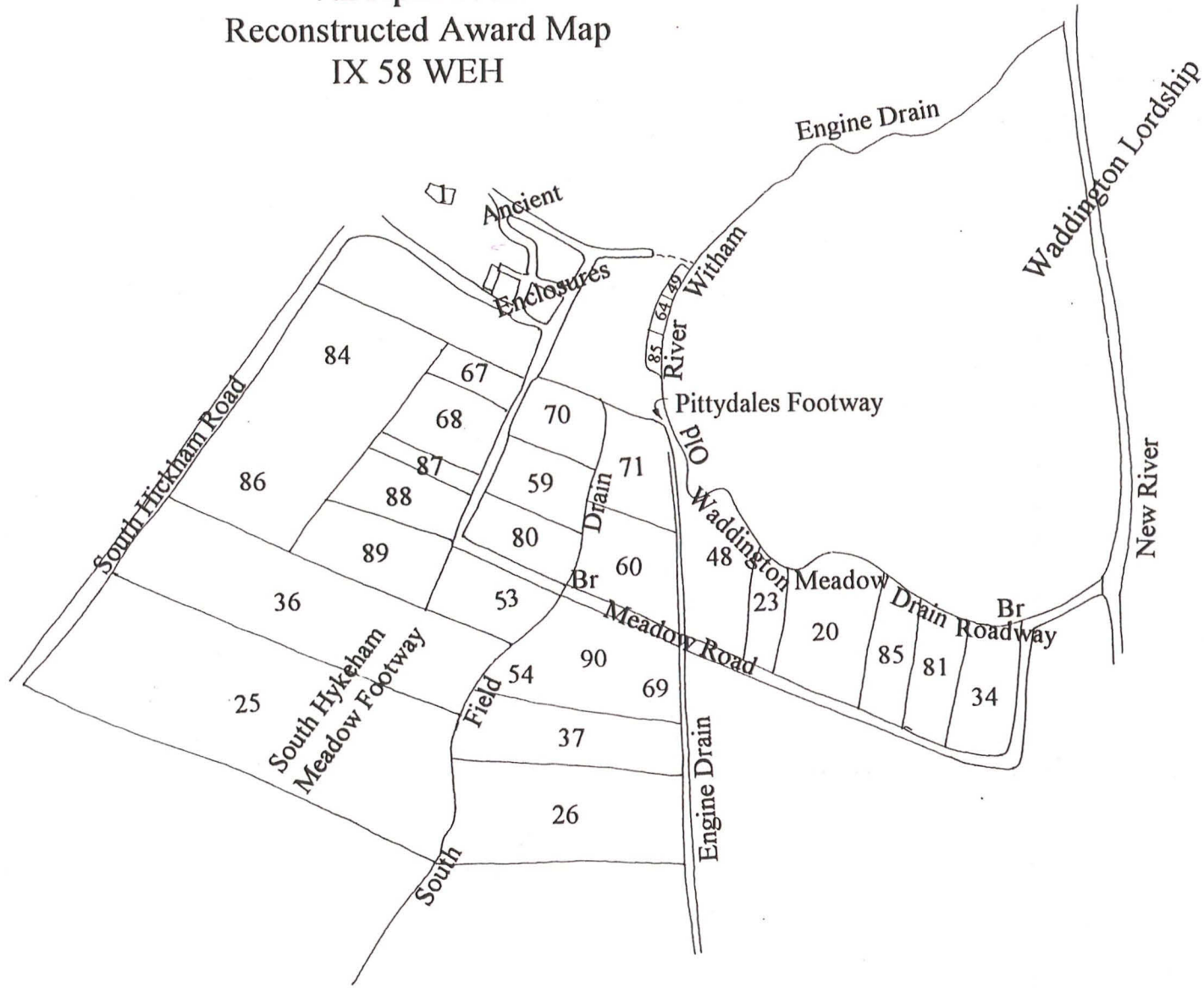
# SMR search for John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

## Meadow Lane, North Hykeham

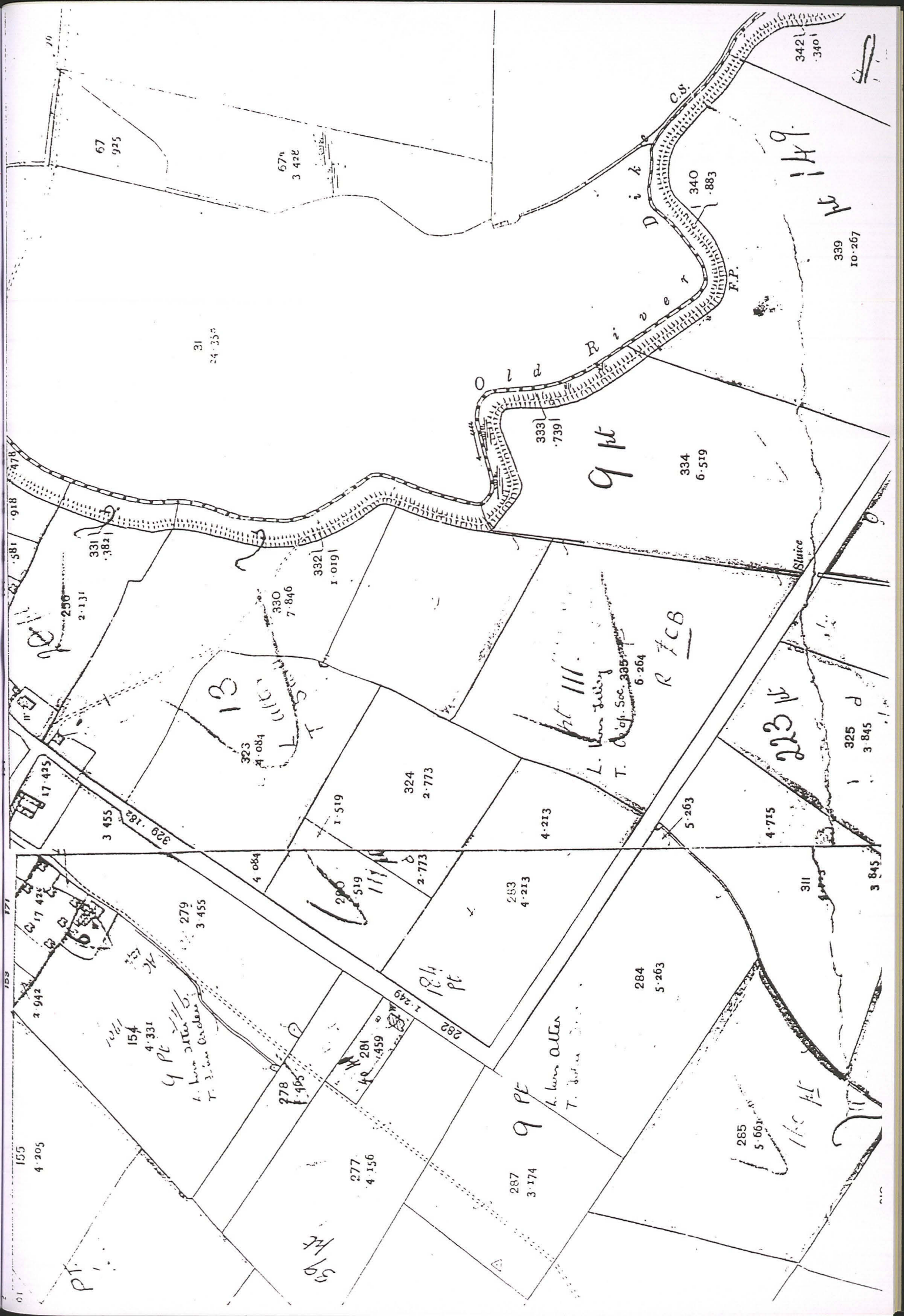
Compiled by Lincolnshire SMR 26th April 1999



North Hykeham Inclosure Award  
7th April 1770  
Reconstructed Award Map  
IX 58 WEH







67  
925

67  
3 428

31  
24 332

149

339  
10-267

9 pt

334  
6-519

331  
3821

330  
7-846

332  
1-019

13

323  
1-084

L. Van der Meer  
T. J. van der Meer  
385  
6-264

R.F.C.B.

223 pt

325  
3-845

17 425

3 455

279  
3-455

4 084

1-519

324  
2-773

4-213

5-263

4-715

3 845

155  
4-205

154  
4-331

4 pt

L. Van der Meer  
T. J. van der Meer

278  
1-995

281  
4-459

282  
1-249

184 pt

287  
3-174

9 pt

L. Van der Meer  
T. J. van der Meer

284  
5-263

265  
5-661

180 pt

311

PT

39 pt

180 pt

311

# North Hykeham

All Saints' Church  
B.M. 24.9

Manor Chap.

Chap. (Side of)

B.M. 42.2

25

Beck

B.M. 22.9

Meadow Lane

21

21

M

B.M. 21.9





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Appendix A :  
Relevant SMR Entries



*An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of  
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SMR Code	Name/description	Period	Grid reference
E	polished stone axe grey ware pottery sherds	Neolithic Romano-British (3 <sup>rd</sup> C)	SK 947 659
N	Domitian AS (coin)	Romano-British (1 <sup>st</sup> C)	SK 9444 6601
T	Bronze official jetton	Medieval (14 <sup>th</sup> C)	SK 9441 6603
U	Site of chapel on OS map	Medieval	SK 9481 6578
V	Green glazed pottery sherds and tile fragment	Medieval	SK 9475 6573
CU	Limestone net-sinker found on bank of 'Old River Dike'	Medieval	SK 9505 6588
LI.697.1.2	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	SK 9448 6527
	Ridge & furrow identified during site visit	Medieval	SK 948 656 SK 948 654
LI. 60572	Ridge & furrow	Medieval	SK 9415 6545
LI. 60783	Settlement remains	Romano-British	SK 9452 6560